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FROM American Consulate General, Naples 50

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF Naples Telegrams 300 and 302, January 20, 1957.

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January 20, 1957

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SUBJECT: Transmitting Memorandum of Conversation Between King Saud and Ambassador Wadsworth.

Transmitted herewith is a Memorandum of Conversation between King Saud and Ambassador Wadsworth, that took place aboard the Royal plane on January 19, 1957, between Cairo and Naples.

James E. Henderson
American Consul General

Enclosure: *all*
Memorandum of Conversation

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Conversation With His Majesty King Saud

Aboard Royal Convair, January 19, 1957.

Participants: His Majesty King Saud
Ambassador Wadsworth
Mohamed Massoud, Interpreter-Consultant

Subjects: Various Items Connected with His Majesty's Trip to the United States.

1) Highlights of Schedule

- a) First Three Days O.K.
- b) Private (Secret) Talk with the President
- c) Suggestion for Visit to UN on Arrival New York City
- d) Week Following First Three Days
- e) Personalities

2) Highlights of Agenda

- a) Washington's Suggestions
- b) Yusuf Yasin's Additions
- c) U.S.-Arab Relations

To do:

P.S. on Visit to Spain

Annex:

Letter to Yusuf Yasin, 1/18/57.

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1) Highlights of Schedule.

a) First Three Days O.K.

I reviewed for His Majesty the highlights of the scheduled first three days in Washington. All of the suggested appointments were wholly agreeable to him, and details might be worked out as we wished, but we should, please, keep in mind that there would probably be others - "American friends and others" - whom he should see and talk with; so his schedule should not be too tight and leave some time for unforeseen appointments.

b) Private (Secret) Talk with the President.

One important point made by His Majesty was that at one of his meetings with the President he would wish to talk alone with the President with only Mohamed present to interpret. He would wish to talk off the record, say some things which should not be heard by his Counselors or anyone.

c) Suggestion for Visit to UN on Arrival New York City.

His Majesty's attitude, rather than his softly spoken words, led me to believe that he was surprised and somewhat troubled by this suggestion; he was visiting President Eisenhower and it would seem natural to him to make his first visit to the President in Washington; if, however, the President, whose guest he was to be, wished him to accept this UN invitation, before coming to Washington, he would, of course, do so, being guided by his host's wishes. He had instructed his Ambassador to ascertain them from the White House.

d) Week Following First Three Days.

I asked His Majesty if there were not some place or places in the United States he would particularly like to visit during the week following his State Visit to Washington or some special thing or things he would like to do. His reply was substantially as follows:

"Please it is not a question of doing or seeing something, or anything. It is a question of crowning my mission with success. I will stay as long as may be needed for this".

I spoke of tentative plans for Prince Fahad's visiting military installations and schools. Would not His Majesty also enjoy seeing some of them? Perhaps we could visit one or two in the South where it was warmer. His Majesty's answer was, "Yes, but only if I finish my work".

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e) Personalities.

His Majesty said he would be happy to see any persons the President or the United States Government might wish or think it desirable he see at any time during his visit. He would welcome such meetings.

This led us to speak of Eugene Black who had visited Riyadh last May and of Messrs. Davies and Duce and other ARAMCO personalities. His Majesty would of course be glad to see them and hoped Finance Minister Surur would meet with Mr. Black and continue their earlier discussions.

In this connection His Majesty graciously added he would welcome my bringing my children to see him.

2) Highlights of Agenda.

a) Washington's Suggestions.

I listed the subjects outlined in my instructions and which I had conveyed yesterday evening to Yusuf Yasin. His Majesty said that Yusuf had told him and that they (the subjects) were wholly agreeable to him. They were, in fact, those he himself had placed foremost in mind.

b) Yusuf Yasin's Additions.

(See copy of my letter of 1/18/57, attached -- I had already checked with him that my listing was correct). His Majesty said on this point that he would be glad if Mr. Dulles would discuss these subjects with him; and they could be discussed also, he hoped, between his Counselors and State Department officials.

c) U.S.-Arab Relations.

His Majesty made a special point of saying that in his talks with Shukri in Riyadh, with Hussain in Medina and now in Cairo with Nasser, Hussain and Assali, he had been charged to speak with the President on their behalf and on behalf of them all. They had exchanged views fully, which he could represent, but he was in no sense bound to only what they had discussed. He hoped Washington, in turn, will be "practical" and ready to work with him to find bases for cooperation not only with Saudi Arabia but with all the other Arab countries as well.

GWadsworth:ime

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Cairo, January 18, 1957

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My dear Shaikh Yusuf:

Further to our conversation of this noon, I take pleasure in recalling what, to us both, were the highlights of the "working" program suggested for the three days of His Majesty's official state visit in Washington, namely:

January 30: Afternoon private meeting with the President.

January 31: Afternoon private meeting with the Secretary of State.

February 1: Second private afternoon meeting with the President.

I promised you, at the same time, a list of the subjects which, on our side, it is proposed be covered at these three most important meetings. They are the following:

January 30:

- 1) U.S.-Saudi and U.S.-Middle East relationships, including the purposes of the Eisenhower Doctrine.
- 2) General comments on Dhahran Airfield and arms for Saudi Arabia.

January 31:

- 3) Specific area questions, such as:
 - a) Future of the Suez Canal.
 - b) Assistance to UN in efforts to relieve general tension in the Middle East.
 - c) Long-range problem of economic relations (inter-relationship) between the Western World and the Middle East.

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February 1:

- 4) At the second meeting between His Majesty and the President:
- a) Consider topics of primary interest emerging from the first two meetings.
 - b) Hear detailed reports on previous detailed sessions between Royal Counselors, Prince Fahad, and State Department and Defense Department officials with respect to Dhahran Airfield.

In turn, you were good enough to suggest, on a strictly personal basis, that the following subjects be added to the list of "specific area problems" which, with His Majesty's approval, Mr. Dulles proposes to discuss on January 31:

- a) Buraimi (and the frontiers).
- b) Economic cooperation with the United States.
- c) Economic aid to Jordan.
- d) Clearing atmosphere in U.S.-Egyptian and U.S.-Syrian relations.

I am having Mohamed Effendi deliver this letter to you "by hand". If there are further subjects which, on your side, you would wish to suggest at this time, please let me know.

We shall be at Al-Maza Airport tomorrow morning at 9:30 to join the Royal Party.

Faithfully yours,

George Wadsworth

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